Criteria for Exempting Establishments from Provident Fund

1894. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria adopted by Government in the grant of status of extempted establishment for the purpose of provident fund dues;

(b) what are the names of the exempted establishments which have been defaulters in the matter of payment of the provident fund dues during the last three years;

(c) whether Goverment exercise any control over these establishments; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Section 17(1) of the E.P.F. Act provides for grant of exemption to a factory or establishment from the operation of the provisions of the EPF Scheme if the Provident Fund Rules of the establishment provides for more favourable benefits, particularly with regard to the rates of contribution, than those available under the EPF Scheme or if their employees are in receipt of more favourable benefits in the nature of provident fund, pension or gratuity. The establishments which are granted extemption in accordance with these provisions by the 'appropriate Government' are known as "exempted establishments";

(b) A list of exempted establishments which were in default of over Rs. 1 lakh as on 31-3-85 is enclosed [*See* Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 105.]

(c) and (d) The grant of exemption under section 17 is subject to certain conditions. The EPF Organisation carries out periodical inspection of the extempted establishments to see whether the establishment was complying with the terms and conditions relating to exemptions. In case, the establishment contravenes with any of the condition of exemption, their extemption is liable to be cancelled. They are also liable to penal action in accordance with the provisions of the EPF Act, for violation of terms and conditions relating to exemption.

Legislation on the Lines of Maharashtra Private Security Guards (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) Act, 1981

1895. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering any proposal to initiate a legislation on the lines of the Maharashtra Private Security Guards (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) Act, 1981; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Export Potential of States

1896. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make a study of the export potential of various States in respect of specific products;

(b) whether Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Central Government to get the specific products

from State Governments to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTTA): (a) to (c) At the instance of certain State Governments, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has conducted export potential surveys of 17 States. As a result, steps taken by the State Governments as reported to us are as follows:—

(1) Creation of infrastructure facilities for promoting exports;

(2) setting up of Departments of Export Promotion and Export Corporations to mobilise efforts of small and medium scale enterprises; and

(3) setting up of high-powered State Export Promotion Boards.

The Government have recognised certain State Export Corporations as Export Houses who are eligible for grant-in aid for various export promotion activities.

Trade Development Authority has also started a new activity of preparing action plan for promoting exports from different States. During 1985-86. it had undertaken to studies in respect of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

ILO Suggestion for Constitution of a FUND

1897. SHRI D.B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Labour Organisation has recently suggested to Government of India to constitute a fund to support activities of Government and non-Government agencies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) to what extent the proposals of the ILO are likely to provide protection and to safeguard the health and safety of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The International Labour Organisation has submitted to the Government in July, 1986 a "Report on General and Comprehensive Legislation on Occupational Safety and Health at work Place". This Report, *inter alia*, recommends setting up of a Fund a National Foundation of Industrial Safety and Occupational Health for Coordinating and promoting activites of social security and occupticnal safety and health. As per the said recommendation. the Foundation would assist the activities of existing national or State level agencies in promoting activities of accident prevention and industrial health. Goverment has not yet taken any view on this Report.

Workers in Slate and Pencil Factories in Madhya Pradesh

1898. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the appealing conditions of thousands of men, women and children working in Madhya Pradesh's state and pencil factories and mines under lethal dust pollution thereby reducing their life span; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government to improve the lot of such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.